

# PACER PARTNERS

**PACER CENTER**  
CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES®

Connecting families, friends,  
donors, and staff of PACER



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## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT Giving Back to PACER

For Teri Moore, PACER's message of helping parents of children with disabilities hits close to home. Not too long ago, she was one of those parents who enlisted PACER's help in finding services for her child. Now, she volunteers as a way to give back for the guidance and assistance she received from PACER.

Teri started volunteering with PACER three years ago.

For the past two years, she has served as co-chair of the Silent Auction Committee for PACER's Annual Benefit. Three or four days a week, Teri donates her afternoons to helping PACER handle items for the auction. On the day of the Benefit, Teri and other volunteers work all day to transport and display the items for the evening's bidders.

"At first, I just wanted to give back, not realizing I would love it and want to stay," Teri says.



Teri and Michael Moore at last year's PACER Benefit.

"It's a big commitment, but I've made it and I enjoy it. I have no desire to stop volunteering anytime soon."

Her husband, Michael Moore, also volunteers at PACER. He has used his business expertise to serve on the Benefit's Corporate Sponsor Committee for the last two years.

Teri and Michael take their volunteering duties at PACER very seriously, because they know firsthand how PACER can help families of children with disabilities. Their son, 22-year-old Josh Moore, has attention deficit disorder (ADD), and the family's road hasn't always been easy. For the first eight years of Josh's

life, Teri and Michael were unable to find a diagnosis for Josh's condition. The two parents struggled with trying to find services for their son, as well as with raising two other children.

"I had never heard of ADD when my children were young, but I knew without a doubt that something was amiss with one of my boys since he was an infant," Teri recalls.

"Watching a child struggle with ADD and trying

*Volunteer Spotlight continued on the next page*

everything you can think of to help him find success is such a challenge for the entire family. Finding help seemed impossible. There were so many phone calls that led nowhere.”

One day when Josh was 6 years old, Teri watched a video from the library on ADD, and something clicked. “I knew that was what he had,” Teri says. “I just remember crying and thinking, ‘That’s it.’”

Having a name for Josh’s condition didn’t make life much easier, though. It was three more years before Josh started receiving medication, which helped him tremendously. But when Josh was in sixth grade, he started having problems interacting with a teacher. “It really concerned me,” Teri says about that time. “We were about to send him to middle school, where he’d interact with seven different teachers a day.”

One of Teri’s friends suggested she call PACER for help. Taking her friend’s advice, Teri spoke with a PACER parent advocate, who helped Teri and the Individualized Education Program (IEP) team develop a plan for Josh.

“I was surprised to find that there actually seemed to be some real help available to him at school,” Teri says. “Feeling like you aren’t alone and that others care goes

such a long way. I know without a doubt that because of PACER’s help, Josh was able to find some success at school.”

“Feeling like you aren’t alone and that others care goes such a long way. I know without a doubt that because of PACER’s help, Josh was able to find some success at school.”

With a little help from PACER and the support of his parents, Josh graduated from high school in 2006. He now lives by himself and holds down two jobs. He also plays guitar in a few local bands and is actively pursuing a career in music, which is his passion.

Teri and her family never forgot how much PACER

helped them during that rough time in Josh’s childhood. That’s the biggest reason she and Michael have invested so much time and energy to helping PACER deliver its services to families. Teri, whose kind and generous nature stems, in part, from watching her son overcome his own challenges, hopes she can help other children with disabilities through her work at PACER.

“Josh would get up and go to school, where he would daily be reminded of what he’d forgotten, what he’d done wrong, and how he should or should not be acting,” Teri says. “Then he would get up and do it all over again the next day. He’s such a loving and forgiving person. I sincerely admire my son for his ability to start fresh every day. I’m so thankful he’s mine.”



The Moore family: Tyler, Teri, Michael, Josh and Zach

## Technology Opens Doors for Sixth Grader

Ask 12-year-old Andrew Olson what his favorite subject is in school, and he'll glance up from his new iPad just long enough to answer with a resounding, "Lunch!"

His mom, Jackie Olson, laughs and reminds him that he does enjoy science and reading, too. As he goes back to solving math problems with the touch of a button, she explains that technology has helped Andrew in many areas of school. "He actually really likes going to school," she says. "He's an expert with computers. He's always changing our screensavers and looking at education websites or YouTube videos."

Andrew, who's in sixth grade, has Joubert syndrome, a genetic disorder with outcomes similar to cerebral palsy. He has multiple developmental delays, most of them physical. After he was diagnosed with his disability at birth, Jackie and her husband, Geoffrey, made the decision to call PACER Center for help. Since then, the family has stayed in close contact with PACER and used many of its services.

As Andrew grew older, it became clear that technology, such as his iPad, would make a significant difference in his life. He's benefitted greatly in the past from consultations with PACER's Simon Technology Center (STC) staff and the STC Lending Library, which allows families to check out adaptive technology and equipment at no cost, much like a public library. "It's like a Best Buy for kids with special needs," Jackie says of the Lending Library. "It's been amazing. The staff really works with you to help you find what you need. Technology has been a real strength for Andrew."

PACER has also helped Jackie learn how to become an effective parent advocate. During Andrew's elementary school years, Jackie attended several workshops on advocating for her child and received individual help from PACER advocates concerning appropriate

services for her son. When Jackie requested additional services from the school district, she also sought advice from PACER advocate Virginia Richardson. "It's comforting to know that she and other advocates are there if we ever need help," Jackie says.

With Jackie acting as a strong advocate, elementary school went well for Andrew and their family. When Andrew started middle school, though, it became a little tougher to collaborate with Andrew's four regular education teachers, three special education teachers, four paraprofessionals and three specialists. One of the family's biggest challenges is convincing others that Andrew's cognitive skills are much stronger than his physical abilities, Jackie says.

But Andrew's family and those close to him know better. He takes mainstream social studies and science classes, and with new technology, such as applications on his iPad, he's also improving his math and reading skills. And while he does have physical limitations, Andrew stays very active through swimming, adaptive skiing and baseball, where he usually plays second or third base.

"It's not always easy, but I push him to be independent," Jackie says. "The future is a little scary, but I know we'll get there."



Andrew Olson

When considering Andrew's long-term plans, Jackie says she will set big goals for her son. In just a few short years, Andrew will begin the transition process to adulthood. With PACER's help, Andrew and his parents are prepared to face the future. "My hope is that he will live semi-independently," Jackie says. "And he will have a meaningful job of some sort."

"I feel like we're extraordinarily blessed to have PACER in Minnesota," she adds. "It's so reassuring to know that advocates are only a phone call away. As we start looking toward transition, I'm also glad to know that PACER has workshops that will help. It's kind of like the iPad, in a way. People always say, 'There's an app for that,' and with PACER, you can always say, 'There's a workshop for that.'"



The Olson family: Geoffrey, Andrew, Charlotte, Ben and Jackie

## PACER Friend, Supporter Leaves Legacy through Bequest

*Plan Your Own Donations to PACER*

It's a commonly accepted fact that childhood experiences can later influence a person in many areas of life. For one generous man, a friendship forged in boyhood led him to make a substantial bequest to PACER.

The late Jerry Lavin and the late Mel Goldberg's friendship began in childhood, when they were both members of the same Boy Scouts troop. As the years went on, their friendship continued and grew stronger. Because Jerry always respected the work of Mel's wife, PACER Executive Director Paula Goldberg, he decided to leave a gift to PACER in his will.



Jerry Lavin and PACER Executive Director Paula Goldberg at last year's PACER Benefit.

"He wanted to share his success in business to help children with disabilities well into the future," Paula says.

Sadly, Jerry's legacy has been realized much too soon. Three years after that initial phone call to PACER, Jerry was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, and he passed away last June. But because he had thought about his future while he was healthy and active, planning was not a burden when he became ill.

Planning for the future can be a difficult topic to discuss, but it must be done to make sure that any funds you want designated to an organization are actually donated. If you have questions or would like to make a planned gift to PACER, please call Mary Schrock, chief operating and development officer, at (952) 838-9000. You can make a difference in a child's life now and far into the future.

See Nine-time  
Grammy Award Winner  
**SHERYL CROW**  
Perform!

PACER'S 29TH ANNUAL BENEFIT, PRESENTED BY  
**SUPERVALU AND P&G**



Don't miss your chance to see nine-time Grammy Award winner Sheryl Crow rock the house during PACER Center's 29th Annual Benefit, sponsored by SuperValu and P&G, at the Minneapolis Convention Center on Saturday, May 7. With a solo career spanning 20 years and seven albums, this singer-songwriter is sure to put on a performance to remember.

Tickets to the Benefit include the performance, as well as silent and live auctions. This year, the Silent Auction will offer more than 1,000 unique and dazzling items. It begins at 6 p.m. in the ballroom on the main level of the Convention Center.

Here are just a few of the "Extra Special" category items that you'll have the chance to bid on. Full descriptions will be available in the Silent Auction Catalog.

**TICKETS ON SALE NOW!**  
**952.838.9000 | PACER.org**

**2011 Ticket Prices**

**\$65 | \$90 | \$140\* | \$200\* | \$275\* | \$550\***

\*Tickets include Patron Party after the performance

- ***Meet the Minnesota Twins manager and watch the game like a VIP!***

A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity! This package includes a meet and greet for four people with the Minnesota Twins manager and 2010 Manager of the Year, Ron "Gardie" Gardenhire, in the Twins dugout before a 2011 game. It also includes watching batting practice, a photo with Gardie and great seats.

- ***Cruise Lake Minnetonka and treat your guests to an amazing meal!***

Enjoy an evening on Lake Minnetonka, including a chef-prepared dinner for 8-10 people by Michael Larson of Parasole Restaurant Holdings, Inc., and Stephanie March, noted food editor. Guests will be pampered with delicious appetizers, a cruise around Lake Minnetonka and a sit-down dinner.

For those who are feeling lucky or adventurous, Benefit attendees will also have the chance to purchase a \$100 raffle ticket toward an amazing prize: a two-year lease on a Mercedes-Benz C300 4MATIC Sport Sedan, donated by Sears Imported Autos. Benefit volunteers will also be on hand to sell Extravaganza bags for \$100 each, filled with glittery treasures from Princess Jewelry in Burnsville. One lucky Extravaganza bag will contain the special grand prize.

2011 PACER Benefit continued on the next page

## 2011 PACER BENEFIT CONTINUED

During the Live Auction, which takes place in the auditorium following the Silent Auction, WCCO TV news anchors Amelia Santaniello and Frank Vascellaro will join auctioneer Karen Sorbo in auctioning off six rare, priceless items and opportunities, including:

- See *“The Ellen DeGeneres Show”* and tour Warner Brothers Studios

Win four hard-to-get tickets to “The Ellen DeGeneres Show” during the taping of Ellen’s “12 Days of Giveaways” special, when each member of the audience receives gifts. Last year’s winners each brought home \$3,000 worth of gifts from the show! As an added bonus to this exciting trip, your group will also have a special tour of Warner Brothers Studios and the set of another television show.

- Win a 2011 Polaris Blue Ranger EV

Go green! The first of its kind from a major ATV manufacturer, the Polaris Ranger EV is an all-electric side-by-side.



The PACER Benefit would not be possible without the generosity of the many people and businesses that contribute to the event and all of the volunteers who serve on Benefit committees. The Benefit helps keep PACER’s important services free to families of children with disabilities.

Don’t miss out on this year’s Benefit! Act now to reserve your tickets by calling (952) 838-9000 or visiting PACER.org.



**Silent Auction Committee. Back row left to right:** Liz Mahony, Jessica Mattson, Noelle Sheehan, Sarah Meek, Julieanne and Don McNeil, Pam Benbow, Kerry Muerhoff and Jennifer Stoltenberg. **Front row left to right:** Teri Moore, Trish Lies, Joan Valente and Jean Lipkin. **Benefit Committee members not pictured:** Patrice Alkire, Kathy Amlaw, Melanie Barry, Suzanne Bennett, Tracy Dolliff, Judy Earling, Gina Gage, Susan Gray, Anna Hyland, Nancy Keyes, Nancy Lewis, Colleen Lindberg, Sari Lipschultz, Danna Mirviss, Robi Nash, Michelle O’Leary, Jennifer Phillips, Gaylen Pirri, Elizabeth Reynolds, Diane Seal, Cindy Shapiro, Judy Syring, Mary Jean Thorsland, Tony Whelihan, Bob Whitehead and Judy Zaitz.



**Corporate Sponsor Committee. Back row left to right:** Jim Oricchio (co-chair), Mary Holmes, Don McNeil, Hal Lieberman and Doug Nill. **Front row left to right:** Judy Schumeister, Allen Lenzmeier, Ken Rosenblum and Howard Zack. **Not pictured:** Bob Anderson, Greg Appelhof, Hayes Batson, Jack Cameron, Jeanne Crain, Don Davidson (co-chair), Michael Moore, Richard Perkins, Lynne Singer Redleaf, Rick Redding, Petro Tsarehradsky, John Valente, Lou Welter and Colleen McGough Wood.



**Benefit Co-Chairs**  
Colleen McGough Wood and Mary Holmes.  
**Not pictured:** Jessica Broyles and Judy Schumeister.

## Thank You!

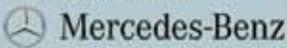
### PACER thanks the following sponsors:

SuperValu and P&G  
The Simon Family Foundation  
Allen and Kathy Lenzmeier  
Best Buy Company, Inc.  
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Starkey Hearing Foundation

# Two Lucky Ways to Win—for Just \$100!

## WIN A 2-YEAR LEASE ON A MERCEDES-BENZ C300 4MATIC SPORT SEDAN!

- 228-hp 3.0-liter V-6 engine
- Premium 1 Package
- Automatic transmission
- Power sunroof and Bluetooth(R) connectivity
- Suggested retail value of the lease: \$13,000



### REFINEMENT WITH A RACING EDGE.

The luxuriously sporty C300 Sport Sedan unites the engineering leadership and motorsports pedigree of Mercedes-Benz in a rewarding performance sedan.

For your chance to win, purchase a \$100 raffle ticket at PACER's Annual Benefit featuring Sheryl Crow on Saturday, May 7 at the Minneapolis Convention Center.

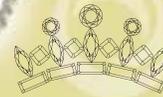
**PACER CENTER**  
CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES.

GENEROUSLY DONATED BY **Sears**  
IMPORTED AUTOS

One lucky bag will contain this grand prize

*Donate \$100 to receive an Extravaganza bag*

and find stunning treasures inside only at PACER's 29th Annual Benefit. Saturday, May 7, 2011

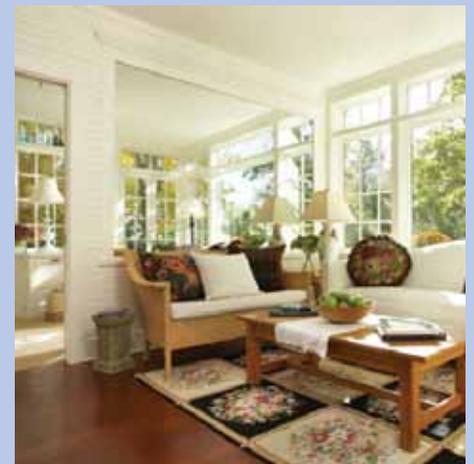


**PRINCESS JEWELRY**

## Tour a Classic Lake Minnetonka Home

Enjoy an architectural house tour of a newly renovated, classic 1892 Lake Minnetonka home. The event will be led by architect Jon Monson and designer Mary Monson of the Landschute Group, architects and builders of fine properties, on June 29.

Thyme to Entertain, a full-service catering company, will donate hors d'oeuvres for this delightful evening. Sign up to win this unique opportunity in the "Extra Special" section of the Silent Auction at PACER's 29th Annual Benefit on May 7.



# PACER's National Bullying Prevention Center Extends Its Global Reach

From Australia to Zimbabwe, PACER's National Bullying Prevention Center is helping children and youth across the globe learn how to prevent and respond to bullying.

Over the past few years, PACER has frequently received e-mails and requests from children and youth in other countries who want to know how to handle the issue of bullying at their schools.

One young girl from England has stayed in touch with PACER through e-mails. She first contacted the National Bullying Prevention Center for help because she was being bullied. After exchanging a few e-mails, she wrote back for advice on how to help another girl in her class who was struggling.



"Most people pick on her and start fights with her," she wrote. "It really worries me and I don't know what to do. Please help!"

PACER's National Bullying Prevention Center has also received donations this year from contacts in Lebanon and the Netherlands. Its "The End of Bullying Begins With Me" online petition now includes more than 16,000 signatures, with many from youth living in different countries, including Brazil, Romania, the Philippines, China, Guam, Israel, Australia, Portugal and South Korea.

For more information on PACER's National Bullying Prevention Center, petition signing campaigns and its international efforts, visit [PACER.org/bullying](http://PACER.org/bullying).

## Creative Kids Contest Inspires Children

*Top Creations Will Be Available for Purchase at PACER's 29th Annual Benefit*



Artist Tony Whelihan poses with a young artist.

Paint brushes in hand and smiles on their faces, around 20 young artists with disabilities participated in PACER Center's sixth annual Creative Kids Contest, which took place on Feb. 26 at the Bloomington Art Center.

Children with disabilities from ages 3 to 17 were eligible to enter the contest. Celebrated artist Anthony Whelihan worked with each of the children, offering ideas and encouragement as their creativity flowed. More than 40

pieces of artwork, including paintings, drawings and even a series of animations, were submitted in the hopes of winning the coveted first-place prize.

The winning design, which will be revealed at PACER's 29th Annual Benefit on May 7, will be featured on the 2011 PACER greeting card, available for purchase on PACER's website. The top 10 creations from the contest will also be framed and available for purchase as part of the Benefit's Silent Auction.

To see past designs from the contest, visit [PACER.org/help/creativeKids/creativecustom2010.asp](http://PACER.org/help/creativeKids/creativecustom2010.asp).



A young artist works on her creation at PACER's Creative Kids Contest.

## 6 SIXTH ANNUAL NATIONAL TED & DR. ROBERTA MANN FOUNDATION SYMPOSIUM

## AUGUST 9



Dr. Roberta  
Mann Benson

Minnesota teachers, parents and administrators are invited to this year's Sixth Annual Ted and Dr. Roberta Mann Foundation National Symposium about Children's Mental Health and Learning Disabilities. The Symposium, co-sponsored by PACER Center and the American Dairy Queen Corporation, will be held Aug. 9 at the Minneapolis Convention Center.

Speakers at the Symposium will address a variety of topics regarding children's mental health and learning disabilities, including effective treatment planning and proactive, positive teaching strategies and interventions. This year's lineup of keynote speakers will include:

- Dr. David S. Goldbloom, senior medical advisor, education and public affairs at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health in Toronto, Canada. He is also a professor of psychiatry at the University of Toronto.
- Josh Hanagarne, author of the novel "The Knot" and the blog "World's Strongest Librarian." He focuses much of his blog on his struggles and triumphs with Tourette's syndrome.
- Dr. Read Sulik, M.D., a child and adolescent psychiatrist, adult psychiatrist and pediatrician. He speaks extensively on depression, anxiety, trauma, suicide, ADHD and more.

The Symposium is made possible through the Ted and Dr. Roberta Mann Foundation. Sadly, Dr. Roberta Mann Benson, a longtime PACER friend and supporter, passed away last October. Because of her passion for helping children with learning and mental health disabilities, this important Symposium has continued to inspire teachers, parents and the community each year. PACER would like to offer a special thank you to Roberta's family.

"Roberta was a visionary, and through her support the lives of countless children and adults with learning disabilities and mental health issues have been changed," says Paula Goldberg, PACER's executive director.

Registration for the Symposium opens on May 11, and spots fill quickly. To register, visit [PACER.org](http://PACER.org) or call (952) 838-9000. Cost for the event is \$15 per person.

A certificate for six clock hours is available for those who attend the entire day.



**From left:** PACER's Chief Operating and Development Officer Mary Schrock; John Gainor, President and CEO of American Dairy Queen; Blythe Brenden, daughter of the late Dr. Roberta Mann Benson; PACER Executive Director Paula Goldberg; and Benson's husband Don Benson.

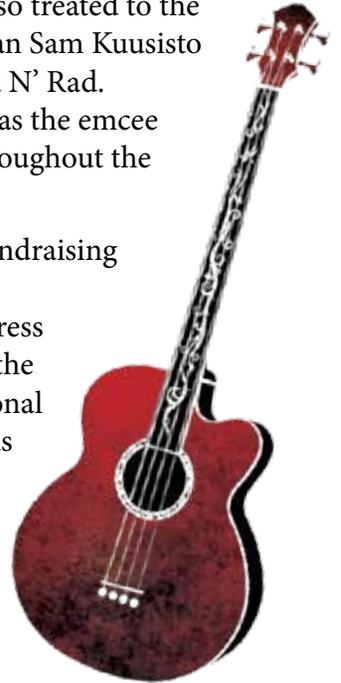
# Young Professionals Party, Dance to Raise Funds for PACER

This January, more than 300 people partied the night away for a good cause. PACER Rocks for Kids, held at the Fine Line Music Café in downtown Minneapolis, brought together fantastic local musicians and young professionals committed to making a difference in the lives of children, especially those with disabilities.

The evening was filled with fun, dancing, specialty cocktails and delicious hors d'oeuvres. Twin Cities'

favorite Hookers & Blow took the stage and got the crowd on its feet. Guests were also treated to the soulful crooning of local musician Sam Kuusisto and the cool techno beats of Bad N' Rad. Comedian Raleigh Weld served as the emcee and kept the crowd laughing throughout the night.

The event included an on-site fundraising challenge with dueling digital thermometers tracking the progress of all the generous guests. With the help of PACER's Young Professional Advisory Board, important funds were raised for two of PACER's projects, the National Bullying Prevention Center and the Simon Technology Center.



**PACER thanks the Young Professional Board members, who organized PACER Rocks for Kids. Front row left to right:** Breia Schleuss, Jori Miller, Amy Inserra, Natalie Furst **Back row left to right:** Ben Schleuss, Adam Schiff, Robert Short, John Samec, Chris Larson, Alex Levin, and co-chairs Jonathan Weinhagen and Zach Robins **Not pictured:** Nico Moreau



PACER Executive Director Paula Goldberg and Doug Nill, Principal of Presenting Sponsor Farm Law, Inc., at PACER Rocks for Kids

### PACER thanks the wonderful sponsors who made this event possible:

~ Presenting Sponsor: Farm Law, Inc. ~

- First Farmers & Merchants
- Minnetonka Moccasin
- Newhall Schleuss Family Foundation
- Nordstrom
- The Furst Foundation
- Krengel Dental
- Media Sponsor: Mpls.St.Paul Magazine
- Minnesota Twins
- Private Bank MN
- The Weinhagen Family
- Zamansky Professional Association

# RUN, WALK, ROLL AGAINST BULLYING



## PACER Supporters Race to End Bullying

*Join Us at the Upcoming Run, Walk, Roll Against Bullying on October 1, 2011!*

Across the country, 160,000 children stay home from school each day to avoid being bullied. The effects of bullying on a child can be lifelong, or even tragic. As part of PACER's Fifth Annual National Bullying Prevention Month last October, PACER held its first Run, Walk, Roll Against Bullying event to raise community awareness about the importance of ending bullying.

More than 250 PACER supporters of all ages gathered at Lake Normandale in Bloomington on a sunny October morning and put their feet in motion to take a stand against bullying. Volunteers cheered on the runners and walkers as they made their way around the lake. Prizes were given to the top finishers, and every participant received a T-shirt

with "The End of Bullying Begins With Me" logo.

Following the race, participants gathered at the band shell for snacks and entertainment, including a heartfelt speech by eighth grader Jonna Herbstritt, who told the crowd that she is standing up to bullying to help her sister with a disability.

PACER offers a special thanks to Farm Law Inc., presenting sponsor of this event. Funds raised at Run, Walk, Roll went toward PACER's National Bullying Prevention Center to continue providing support and information to children in Minnesota and across the country who are affected by bullying.

Make sure to mark your calendars for PACER's second annual Run, Walk, Roll Against Bullying on October 1, 2011!



**Left:** Michael Keller, chief marketing officer of International Dairy Queen and a PACER Board member, speaks to the crowd about the importance of bullying prevention.

**Right:** Doug Nill (center) of Farm Law Inc., the presenting sponsor of the event; his daughter Olivia (left); and PACER Chief Operating and Development Officer Mary Schrock pose for a picture at the festivities following the Run, Walk, Roll Against Bullying.



*PACER Partners* is published by the PACER Development Office | ©2011 PACER Center, Inc. | PACER Executive Director Paula F. Goldberg  
Chief Operating and Development Officer and *Partners* Editor Mary Schrock | Communications Coordinator Julie Holmquist  
*Partners* Contributing Writers Kelly Lorenz and Ashley White | Masthead Design/Layout Rachael Zevenbergen

## PACER DEVELOPMENT CORNER



**Mary Schrock**  
Chief Operating and  
Development Officer  
mschrock@PACER.org

### Thank You!

PACER has the most amazing volunteers! From attorneys and marketing executives who donate their expertise to volunteers who solicit businesses for the Benefit's Silent Auction items and corporate sponsorships, PACER is fortunate to have volunteers from all walks of life. Thank you to our volunteers for reaching out and offering help to others.

PACER is always looking for new volunteers in a variety of roles. Please call (952) 838-9000 and ask to speak with our volunteer coordinator for more information. We'd love to have you involved!

### SPRING 2011

#### **PACER's 29th Annual Benefit featuring Sheryl Crow, May 7**

Don't miss this exciting event, featuring a performance by Grammy Award winner Sheryl Crow! See page 5 for details.

### SUMMER 2011

#### **EX.I.T.E. Camp for Girls, Aug. 4-18**

Middle school girls with disabilities have until May 1 to apply for this fun science and technology camp at PACER. Visit [PACER.org/stc](http://PACER.org/stc) for more information.

#### **The Ted and Dr. Roberta Mann Foundation National Symposium about Children's Mental Health and Learning Disabilities, Aug. 9**

Registration for this popular event opens Wednesday, May 11. For more details on the Symposium, see page 9.

### FALL 2011

#### **PACER's Run, Walk, Roll Against Bullying, October 1, 2011**

Our first Run, Walk, Roll last October was a huge success! Watch for details on this year's Run, Walk, Roll Against Bullying in upcoming PACER publications.